

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9603

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7750

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, AU, CA

SUBJECT: KREISKY REGISTERS INTEREST IN SWAROVSKI EXCON CASE

REF: VIENNA 5227 OF JUNE 17, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS TELEGRAM REQUESTS SOONEST A STATUS REPORT AND DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE ON AN EXCON CASE IN WHICH CHANCELLOR KREISKY IS PREPARED TO INTERCEDE PERSONALLY WITH PRESIDENT FORD OR SECRETARY KISSINGER. END SUMMARY.

2. CHANCELLOR KREISKY REAISED WITH EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 14 IN INFORMAL MANNER AND AS SELF-DESCRIBED "PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL" SWAROVSKI EXCON CASE. HE INDICATED THAT MANFRED SWAROVSKI, JR., SUBJECT OF CASE, HAD SEEN HIM IN EARLY SEPTEMBER ON MATTER AND THAT HE HAD AGREED TO MAKE INTERCESSION AS "PRIVATE PERSON" WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES. HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO WRITE PRESIDENT FORD OR SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND AFTER SHOWING EMBOFF DRAFT OF LETTER AND SWAROVSKI ACCOMPANYING COVER LETTER, ASKED FOR EMBASSY'S INITIAL REACTION AND BEST WAY TO PROCEED.

3. KREISKY WAS INFORMED THAT EMBASSY WOULD LIKE FIRST TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN CURRENT STATUS REPORT ON CASE (MOST RECENT EMBASSY TRAFFIC ON CASE DATE JUNE 1975) BEFORE FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH HIM. WE SUGGESTED THAT IN MEANTIME DISPATCH OF LETTER TO WASHINGTON BE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

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4. SUBSTANCE OF DRAFT OF KREISKY-FORD/KISSINGER LETTER IS THAT SWAROVSKI FAMILY AND FIRM ARE REPUTABLE AND WELL KNOWN IN AUSTRIA, AND THAT MANFRED WAROVSKI, SUBJECT OF EXCON CASE, WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWINGLY ENGAGED IN CRIMINAL CONDUCT. LETTER REQUESTS US OFFICIALS TO USE DISCRETIONARY POWER, IF SUCH EXISTS, IF FAVOR OF MANFRED SWAROVSKI IN DISPOSING OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM PENDING BEFORE US DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DIVISION OF NEW YORK, CASE NO. 75-CR-795.

5. SWAROVSKI-KREISKY COVERING LETTER MAKES POINTS THAT (1) WORDING OF DRAFT OF KREISKY-FORD/KISSINGER LETTER "WAS COORDINATED WITH RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS IN USA" AND THAT (2) KREISKY LETTER SHOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AT LATES BY OCTOBER 1.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: CHANCELLOR IS CLEARLY PREPARED TO SEND LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF SECRETARY. ON BASIS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS OF CASE, WE QUESTION THE WISDOM OF KREISKY'S S INSERTING HIMSELF INTO IT. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP CURRENT REPORT ON CASE AND GUIDANCE ON ITS FURTHER HANDLING VIS-A-VIS CHANCELLOR. IN INTERIM WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH MEANING OF PHRASE IN SWAROVSKI-KREISKY LETTER "WAS COORDINATED WITH RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTIONS IN THE USA." BUCHANAN

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